

Blessings from the Lord

Ruth 4:9-17

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day." 11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman." 13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

- I. God desires to bless His children.
 - A. Various blessings
 - 1. God blessed Abraham
 - a. With many descendants.
 - b. With blessings for those who would bless him.
 - c. With the land of Canaan
 - d. To be the bearer of the promised One.
 - 2. God blesses everyone differently.
 - a. He is not a cookie cutter God, making all the blessings the same for everyone.
 - b. As we saw with Abraham, God's blessings are on His time schedule.
 - B. God did not immediately bless Naomi.
 - 1. But He did bless her with a daughter-in-law that was better to her than anyone else.
 - 2. And He definitely blessed Ruth by bringing Naomi into her life.

3. If there had been no drought and no loss of mate and sons, then Naomi would have been a forgotten woman like the many thousands of her day.
4. But God would bring His king and our Messiah through this family.

II. We can hinder God's blessings.

A. God is a better Father than Dr. Benjamin Spock.

1. He does not bless those who sin.
2. Now they may seem to be blessed but is it God's blessing? I think not.
3. God loves us way too much to encourage us in our sin, rather He chastens us when we go astray.
4. Hebrews 12:5-8 (NKJV) 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
5. Our condition in life is not a indication of God's love for us.

B. God has always based His blessings on obedience.

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NKJV) 1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. 7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. 8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. 10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

11 And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. 14 So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

III. Romans 8:28 is not a cliché.

A. It is a timeless principle.

B. For Naomi and Ruth

1. They seemed to have everything against them.
2. Death was their lot.
3. They only had each other.
4. But God hadn't forsaken them.
5. God had guided them back to their homeland.
6. God guided Ruth to the right field.
7. God gave Ruth favor in the eyes of Boaz.
8. God had given Naomi wisdom to see what God was doing.

C. It works for all those who truly love God.

1. After God chastened the people of Judah, He brought them back.
2. Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NKJV) 10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.